



President
Barbara J. Easterling

Secretary-Treasurer
Ruben Burks

November 16, 2011

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Brown and Mikulski:

On behalf of our four million members, the Alliance for Retired Americans supports your legislation, the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act. This legislation is vital to the health and economic security of our members and millions more older and disabled Americans.

Retirees spend more of their financial resources on health care and housing than the general population. Because health care inflation rates, in particular, have been much higher than general inflation during the past twenty years, the current formula used to calculate the Social Security annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) does not accurately reflect the everyday costs that seniors face. Your legislation, by creating and applying a price index that does accurately reflect costs for Social Security beneficiaries, remedies the current disparity in calculating the COLA. This change will help our members better meet the financial challenges they face. The Alliance for Retired Americans enthusiastically supports your legislation.

Your introduction of the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act demonstrates your commitment to the quality of life for retirees and older Americans. Should you have any questions, please contact Richard Fiesta or Sarah Byrne at the Alliance Department of Government and Political Affairs.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara J. Easterling
President

Ruben Burks
Secretary-Treasurer

Edward F. Coyle
Executive Director